

Serial No. 10/077,359

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:**1. (Currently Amended) A panel assembly comprising:**

a first panel having a first inner sidewall defining a first passageway, said first panel defining a slot which communicates said first passageway with an environment;
a second panel having a second inner sidewall defining a second passageway and said first passageway being in alignment with said second passageway, said first panel being positioned elevationally above said second panel; and
a connection member for interconnecting said first panel to said second panel, said connection member being slidably disposed in said first passageway and slidably disposed partially in said second passageway, said connection member being dimensionally expandable to engage against said first sidewall and produce a pressure fit with said first sidewall;

wherein said connection member includes

a first elongate member which defines a threaded opening therethrough;
a second elongate member which defines an abutment area; and
a first interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member; said first interconnection member being operative to adjust a spatial orientation of said first elongate member relative to said second elongate member, said first interconnection member being a threaded bolt which is threadedly inserted through said threaded opening.

2. (Cancelled)**3. (Currently Amended) A panel assembly comprising:**

Serial No. 10/077,359

a first panel having a first inner sidewall defining a first passageway, said first panel defining a slot which communicates said first passageway with an environment;
a second panel having a second inner sidewall defining a second passageway and said first passageway being in alignment with said second passageway, and
a connection member for interconnecting said first panel to said second panel, said connection member being slidably disposed in said first passageway and slidably disposed partially in said second passageway, said connection member being dimensionally expandable to engage against said first sidewall and produce a pressure fit with said first sidewall;
wherein said connection member includes
a first elongate member which defines a threaded opening therethrough;
a second elongate member which defines an abutment area; and
a first interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member; said first interconnection member being operative to adjust a spatial orientation of said first elongate member relative to said second elongate member,
said first interconnection member being a threaded bolt which is threadedly inserted through said threaded opening. The panel assembly of claim 1, wherein said first passageway and said second passageway share a common vertical axis.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of Claim 1 , wherein said first interconnection member is operative to adjust a lateral spacing of said first elongate member from said second elongate member.

6. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first elongate member has a first longitudinal axis and said second elongate member has a second longitudinal axis wherein said first longitudinal axis is oriented parallel to said second longitudinal axis.

Serial No. 10/077,359

7.(Original) The panel assembly of claim 6, wherein said first interconnection member is operative to adjust a spacing of said first longitudinal axis relative to said second longitudinal axis.

8. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first interconnection member is positioned physically accessible through said slot.

9. (Currently amended) A-The panel assembly of Claim 3 wherein said first panel is positioned elevationally above said second panel comprising:
~~a first panel having a first inner sidewall defining a first passageway, said first panel defining a slot which communicates said first passageway with an environment;~~
~~a second panel having a second inner sidewall defining a second passageway and said first passageway being in alignment with said second passageway; and~~
~~a connection member for interconnecting said first panel to said second panel, said connection member being slidably disposed in said first passageway and slidably disposed partially in said second passageway, said connection member being dimensionally expandable to engage against said first sidewall and produce a pressure fit with said first sidewall, wherein said connection member includes~~
~~a first elongate member;~~
~~a second elongate member;~~
~~a first interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member, said first interconnection member being operative to adjust a spatial orientation of said first elongate member relative to said second elongate member,~~
~~and~~
~~a second interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member.~~

10. (Currently amended) A-The panel assembly of Claim 1 further including comprising:

Serial No. 10/077,359

a first panel having a first inner sidewall defining a first passageway, said first panel defining a slot which communicates said first passageway with an environment; a second panel having a second inner sidewall defining a second passageway and said first passageway being in alignment with said second passageway; and a connection member for interconnecting said first panel to said second panel, said connection member being slidably disposed in said first passageway and slidably disposed partially in said second passageway, said connection member being dimensionally expandable to engage against said first sidewall and produce a pressure fit with said first sidewall; wherein said connection member includes

a first elongate member which defines a threaded opening therethrough;

a second elongate member which defines an abutment area;

a first interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member, said first interconnection member being operative to adjust a spatial orientation of said first elongate member relative to said second elongate member; and

a second interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member, said second interconnection member being disposed to be physically accessible through said slot in a first condition and physically inaccessible through said slot in a second condition.

11. (Currently amended) The panel assembly of Claim 10, wherein said first interconnection member is positioned elevationally above said second interconnection member.

12. (Currently amended) The panel assembly of claim 9 wherein a length of said slot is dimensionally larger than a distance between said first interconnection member and said second interconnection member.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A panel assembly comprising:

Serial No. 10/077,359

a first panel having a first inner sidewall defining a first passageway, said first panel defining a slot which communicates said first passageway with an environment;
a second panel having a second inner sidewall defining a second passageway and said first passageway being in alignment with said second passageway; and
a connection member for interconnecting said first panel to said second panel, said connection member being slidably disposed in said first passageway and slidably disposed partially in said second passageway, said connection member being dimensionally expandable to engage against said first sidewall and produce a pressure fit with said first sidewall;
wherein said connection member includes
a first elongate member which defines a threaded opening therethrough;
a second elongate member which defines an abutment area; and
a first interconnection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member; said first interconnection member being operative to adjust a spatial orientation of said first elongate member relative to said second elongate member, said first interconnection member being a threaded bolt which is threadedly inserted through said threaded opening

~~The panel assembly of Claim 1 wherein said threaded opening, said abutment and said threaded bolt are disposed such that a rotation of said threaded bolt in a first direction causes an increase in a distance separating said threaded opening and said abutment and together with a resulting increase in a spatial distancing of said first elongate member from said second elongate member eventually resulting in a pressure fit of said first elongate member and said second elongate members member with said sidewall defining said first passageway.~~

15. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 14 wherein a rotation of said threaded bolt in a second direction causes a decrease in said distance separating said threaded opening and said abutment area resulting in a release of said pressure fit.

16. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 15, wherein said spatial distancing of said first elongate member from said second elongate member is a lateral distance.

Serial No. 10/077,359

17. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of first panels and a plurality of second panels, each first panel being physically associated with a respective second panel, and each said first panel being positioned adjacent another said first panel.

18. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 1, wherein each said first panel defines a first surface and a second surface, said first surfaces being oriented to face in a first direction and said second surfaces being oriented to face in a second direction.

19. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 1, wherein said first passageway is formed by a hollow elongate extrusion.

20. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 1, wherein said slot in a primary said first panel is defined in a first surface of said primary first panel and a respective said slot in a secondary first panel positioned adjacent said primary first panel is defined in said second surface of said secondary first panel.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of Claim 1 wherein said second panel defines a secondary slot therein which communicates said second passageway with said environment.

23. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of Claim 9 wherein said second panel defines a secondary slot therein which communicates said second passageway with said environment, said second interconnection member being accessible through said secondary slot.

Serial No. 10/077,359

24. (New) The panel assembly of Claim 1 further including a second connection member for interconnecting said first elongate member to said second elongate member.